

# CLAIMS

1. A method to count tickets comprising:

providing a translucent ticket with an opaque pattern providing translucent portions;

5 providing a light source on a first side of the ticket;

providing a detector on a second side of the ticket;

providing relative motion between the ticket and the detector; and

detecting the pattern and translucent portions with the detector.

10 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising incrementing a running total of the tickets counted, a running total of verified tickets and a running total of non-verified tickets.

3. An apparatus for counting tickets comprising:

15 a housing;

a transport device coupled to the housing capable of guiding at least one ticket into the housing and the tickets are printed with a pattern;

a light source positioned on a first side of the ticket;

a detector positioned on a second side of the ticket; and

a signal analyzer coupled to the detector to analyze the signal provided by the detector.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the signal analyzer is comprised of a controller that counts, analyzes and determines barcode similarity relative to a location code.

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5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the controller comprises a digital processor, a data memory and a program instruction.

6. The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising a ticket chopper.

7. The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising a ticket count display.

8. The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising a receipt printer.

15 9. A method for printing a pattern on a ticket comprising:

obtaining a plurality of translucent tickets;

feeding the plurality of translucent tickets into a ticket printing machine;

printing an opaque pattern on one side of each individual translucent ticket, such that there is an alternating pattern of translucent and opaque portions; and

covering the opaque pattern with a dark colored non-opaque ink.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein printing the opaque pattern is printed on both  
sides of each individual translucent ticket and the opaque patterns on both sides of  
5 each individual ticket are covered with the dark colored non-opaque ink.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the opaque pattern is printed on one side of  
each individual translucent ticket and both sides of each individual ticket are  
covered with the dark colored non-opaque ink.

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